



**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**

**TAX EXEMPT AND
GOVERNMENT
ENTITIES DIVISION**

Release Number: **201447041**
Release Date: 11/21/2014
UIL Code: 501-15-00

Date: 8/22/2014

Employer Identification Number:

Person to Contact / ID Number:

Contact Numbers:

Voice:

Fax:

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear :

In a determination letter dated June 9, 20XX, you were held to be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(15) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Based on recent information received, we have determined you have not operated in accordance with the provisions of section 501(c)(15) of the Code. Accordingly, your exemption from Federal income tax is revoked effective January 1, 20XX. This is a final adverse determination letter with regard to your status under section 501(c)(15) of the Code.

We previously provided you a report of examination explaining why we believe revocation of your exempt status is necessary. At that time, we informed you of your right to contact the Taxpayer Advocate, as well as your appeal rights. On May 28, 20XX, you signed Form 6018-A, Consent to Proposed Action, agreeing to the revocation of your exempt status under section 501(c)(15) of the Code.

You have filed a taxable return on Form 1120-PC, U.S. Property and Casualty Insurance Company Income Tax Return, for the year ended December 31, 20XX, with the Service Center. For future periods, you are required to file income tax returns with the appropriate service center indicated in the instructions for the return.

You have the right to contact the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate. Taxpayer Advocate assistance is not a substitute for established IRS procedures, such as the formal Appeals process. The Taxpayer Advocate cannot reverse a legally correct tax determination, or extend the time fixed by law that you have to file a petition in a United States court. The Taxpayer Advocate can, however, see that a tax matter that may not have been resolved through normal channels gets prompt and proper handling. You may call toll-free,

1-877-777-4778, and ask for Taxpayer Advocate Assistance. If you prefer, you may contact your local Taxpayer Advocate at:

Taxpayer Advocate Service

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown at the beginning of this letter.

Sincerely,

Marsha A. Ramirez
Director, EO Examinations

Encl: Form 6018-A

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

Date: May 15, 2008

Taxpayer Identification Number:

Form:

Tax Year(s) Ended:

Person to Contact/ID Number:

Contact Numbers:

Telephone:

Fax:

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear

We have enclosed a copy of our report of examination explaining why we believe revocation of your organization's exempt status is necessary.

If you do not agree with our position you may appeal your case. The enclosed Publication 3498, *The Examination Process*, explains how to appeal an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) decision. Publication 3498 also includes information on your rights as a taxpayer and the IRS collection process.

If you request a conference, we will forward your written statement of protest to the Appeals Office and they will contact you. For your convenience, an envelope is enclosed.

If you and Appeals do not agree on some or all of the issues after your Appeals conference, or if you do not request an Appeals conference, you may file suit in United States Tax Court, the United States Court of Federal Claims, or United States District Court, after satisfying procedural and jurisdictional requirements as described in Publication 3498.

You may also request that we refer this matter for technical advice as explained in Publication 892, *Exempt Organization Appeal Procedures for Unagreed Issues*. If a determination letter is issued to you based on technical advice, no further administrative appeal is available to you within the IRS on the issue that was the subject of the technical advice.

If you accept our findings, please sign and return the enclosed Form 6018, *Consent to Proposed Adverse Action*. We will then send you a final letter revoking your exempt status. If we do not hear from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, we will process your case on the basis of the recommendations shown in the report of examination and this letter will become final. In that event, you will be required to file Federal income tax returns for the tax period(s) shown above. File these returns with the Ogden Service Center within 60 days from the date of this letter, unless a request for an extension of time is granted. File returns for later tax years with the appropriate service center indicated in the instructions for those returns.

You have the right to contact the office of the Taxpayer Advocate. Taxpayer Advocate assistance is not a substitute for established IRS procedures, such as the formal appeals process. The Taxpayer Advocate cannot reverse a legally correct tax determination, or extend the time fixed by law that you have to file a petition in a United States court. The Taxpayer Advocate can, however, see that a tax matter that may not have been resolved through normal channels gets prompt and proper handling. You may call toll-free 1-877-777-4778 and ask for Taxpayer Advocate Assistance. If you prefer, you may contact your local Taxpayer Advocate at:

Taxpayer Advocate Service

If you have any questions, please call the contact person at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter. If you write, please provide a telephone number and the most convenient time to call if we need to contact you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Marsha A. Ramirez
Director, EO Examinations

Enclosures:
Publication 892
Publication 3498
Form 6018
Report of Examination
Envelope

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Form 886-A (Rev. January 1994) | EXPLANATIONS OF ITEMS | Schedule number or exhibit |
| Name of taxpayer | Tax Identification Number | Year/Period ended 12/31/20XX |

Internal Revenue Service records reveal that _____ was granted exemption as a small insurance company described in section 501(c)(15) of the Internal Revenue Code on June 8, 20XX, commencing June 9, 20XX, for all tax years beginning before January 1, 20XX, when net written premiums (or, if greater, direct written premiums) do not exceed \$ _____. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 20XX, the corporation is exempt if (a) gross receipts for the taxable year do not exceed \$600,000, and (b) more than 50 percent of the gross receipts for the taxable year consists of premiums.

_____ is required to file annual information return, Form 990. The Form 990 return filed for the year ended December 31, 20XX, was examined by TE/GE, _____. During the initial inspection of the Form 990 for 20XX, it was noted that _____ did accurately report being exempt under IRC 501(c)(15) on line J in the heading of the return.

Since the passage of the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004, _____ filed Form 990 returns for tax years ended December 31, 20XX, and December 31, 20XX. _____ filed Form 1120-PC for the 20XX tax year. On its Form 990 returns filed for the year ended December 31, 20XX, _____ reported the following sources of income:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| | 20XX |
| Gifts, Grants and Contributions | -0- |
| Program Service Revenue | -0- |
| Membership dues/assessments | -0- |
| Interest on savings | -0- |
| Dividends | -0- |
| Gain of Sale of Assets | -0- |
| Other income | -0- |
| Totals | \$ _____ |

_____ was originally operated to accept reinsured risk that originated as appearance protection vehicle service contracts, with Group serving as the direct writer, and _____, serving as the administrator. This arrangement changed after _____ filed for bankruptcy in June 20XX.

Subsequent to the bankruptcy of _____, _____ operated, primarily, to directly insure vehicle service contracts for new and used cars sold by certain auto dealerships in the State of _____.

| | | |
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The vehicle service contracts are for appearance protection (sealant) contracts written by _____ is the long time business operator in the chemical industry that produces chemicals used in the appearance protection sealant.

In 20XX, specifically, _____ did not engage in new insurance business. Nor was the company in "run-off" status during the year. _____ primary activity was to pay claims arising from existing appearance protection certificates still outstanding and, to make reimbursements for any policies cancelled by consumers. _____ did not receive any premium income in 20XX. The organization did pay a refund of premium in the amount of \$ _____.

20XX gross receipts consisted of interest from temporary savings; dividends from publicly traded securities; and gain from the sale of assets

gross receipts are less than the \$600,000 limitation imposed by the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004. However, based on the sources of receipts reported on the 20XX Form 990 return, premium income was not "more than" _____ % of the corporation's gross receipts.

There is no evidence of any other significant activities conducted by _____ during 20XX.

During the 20XX tax year, _____ did not claim to be tax-exempt. The corporation filed Form 1120-PC, U.S. Property and Casualty Insurance Company Income Tax Return, for the 20XX tax year, and paid tax on its taxable investment income.

Although _____ was not in voluntary "run-off" or "court ordered" liquidation status in 20XX, the corporation is deemed to be an insurance company under Subchapter L of the Internal Revenue Code, because it continued to pay claims and/or refunds on existing policies. However, _____ does not qualify for tax-exempt status under IRC 501(c)(15), for the 20XX tax year, because it failed to meet the new requirements for tax-exempt status as described in the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004.

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LAW:

PRIOR LAW

I.R.C. § 501 provides that certain entities are exempt from taxation. Included in these entities are "[i]nsurance companies or associations other than life (including interinsurers and reciprocal underwriters) if the net written premiums (or, if greater, direct written premiums) for the taxable year do not exceed \$350,000." I.R.C. § 501(c)(15)(A). If an entity is a part of a consolidated group, all net written premiums (or direct written premiums) of the members of the group are aggregated to determine whether the insurance company meets the requirements of I.R.C. § 501(c)(15)(A).

The prior law was effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 1986, through December 31, 2003, the effective date of the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004.¹

CURRENT LAW

For tax years beginning after December 21, 2003, an organization must meet the following two-part test to qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(15):²

1. Gross receipts for the year may not exceed \$600,000 and
2. Premiums must be more than 50% of the organization's total gross receipts.

Mutual insurance companies must meet either the above test, or the following alternative test:

1. Gross receipts for the year may not exceed \$150,000 and
2. Premiums must be more than 35% of the organization's total gross receipts.

The alternative test for a mutual insurance company does not apply if an employee of the company, or a member of the employee's family [as defined in IRC section 2032A(e)(2)] is an employee of another company exempt from tax (or would be exempt) under IRC section 501(c)(15).

¹ Prior to 1986, the direct or net written premium ceiling was limited to \$150,000. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 increased the direct or net written premium ceiling to \$350,000 per year.

² Notice 2006-42, I.R.B. 2006-19, April 24, 2006.

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
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If an organization is in a receivership, liquidation, or similar proceeding under the supervision of a state court on April 1, 2004, the new law applies to taxable years beginning after the date such proceeding ends or December 31, 2007, whichever is earlier.

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION:

Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(15) originally referred only to certain mutual insurance companies or associations other than life or marine. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 ("TRA-86") eliminated the distinction between small mutual insurance companies and other small insurance companies and extended exemption under IRC 501(c)(15) to all eligible small insurance companies, whether stock or mutual.

TRA 86 also changed the nature of the ceiling amount for tax exemption from certain gross receipts to direct or net written premiums. The ceiling amount was changed from \$150,000 to \$350,000. Therefore, under TRA 84, to qualify for exemption as a small insurance company, the direct or net written premiums received by an organization could not exceed \$350,000 for a taxable year.

The requirements established under TRA 86 posed serious problems for the Service, because the requirements did not place any limitation of the amount of investment income small insurance companies could earn. Many taxpayers and tax professionals took advantage of the tax-exempt treatment allowed to small insurance companies by contributing highly appreciated income producing assets to the tax-exempt organizations. The assets produced substantial investment income that was not taxed due to the tax-exempt status of the small insurance companies.

Congress intended to curb this loophole in the law by including language in Section 206 of the Pension Funding Act of 2004, which, one again, changed the requirements for tax-exempt status for Small Property and Casualty Insurance Companies.

On April 10, 2004, President Bush signed H.R. 3108, the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004, P.L. 108-218. One purpose of the legislation was to tighten the rules for property and casualty insurance companies to qualify as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(15) of the Code, or to elect to be taxed only on their investment income. The bill contained the following comments from the Conference Report:

| | | |
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The limitation to mutual companies and the limitation on employees are intended to address the conferees' concern about the inappropriate use of tax-exempt insurance companies to shelter investment income, including in the case of companies with gross receipts under \$150,000. It is intended that the provision not permit the use of small companies with common owners or employees to shelter investment income for the benefit of such owners or employees.

The new legislation amended IRC 501(c)(15) for tax years beginning after December 31, 2003. The new law replaced the "written premiums test" with a "gross receipts and percentage of premiums test."

The new law placed an overall limitation on the amount of gross receipts small insurance companies could earn for each taxable year.

Therefore, for years beginning after December 31, 2003, small insurance companies can not have gross receipts in excess of \$600,000 to qualify for tax-exempt status under IRC 501(c)(15). In addition, of its total gross receipts, more than 50% must be derived from premium income.

The facts present in this case clearly demonstrate that does not meet the new requirements for tax-exempt status under IRC 501(c)(15), in 20XX, because its gross receipts do not consists of adequate "premiums" to meet the "more than 50%" test imposed by the new law. During the 20XX tax year, did not receive positive premium income. On the 20XX Form 990 return, reported negative premiums of (\$), which typically represent reimbursements of premiums to consumers for cancellation of the insurance policies. The reimbursements were reported on the 20XX return as a negative income item instead of reporting such reimbursements as an expense item. Based on the audit, gross receipts for 20XX are as follows:

| | |
|--|------|
| | 20XX |
| Premiums | -0- |
| Interest on temporary savings | -0- |
| Dividends and interest from securities | -0- |
| Gain on sale of assets | -0- |
| Other income | -0- |
| Gross Receipts | -0- |

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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Do Gross Receipts exceed
\$600,000 limitation?

50% of Gross Receipts
Premiums

-0-

-0-

Do Premiums exceed 50%
Of Gross Receipts?

Does Org meet the Gross
Receipts Test?

Does Org Qualify for exemption
Under IRC 501(c) (15)?

Conclusion

1120PC

**NOTE: As a stock corporation, the alternative gross receipts test (\$150,000/35%) is NOT available to
. Such alternative test is available to mutual insurance companies only.**

The principal gross receipts tests consist of two parts. The corporation must satisfy both parts of the \$600,000/50% gross receipts test. In this case, does meet part-one of the \$600,000 gross receipts limitation permitted for small insurance companies. However, does not satisfy part-two of the gross receipts test because its premium income does not exceed 50% of gross receipts for 20XX. must satisfy both parts of the \$600,000/50% gross receipts test in order to meet the new requirements for tax-exempt status under section 501(c) (15) of the Code. If fails to meet either component of the two part test, then it fails to qualify for exemption as a small insurance company. As a stock corporation, the alternative gross receipts test (\$150,000/35%) is not available to .

Based on the above analysis, it is determined that was properly recognized as a tax-exempt small insurance company for years prior to December 31, 20XX. However, due to the change in law, the corporation no longer qualifies for tax-exempt status for the tax year ended December 31, 20XX, because it fails to comply with the \$600,000/50% gross receipts test imposed by the Pension Fund Equity Act of 2004.

| | | |
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As such, it is recommended that _____ tax-exempt status under IRC 501(c)(15) be revoked, effective January 1, 20XX.

TAXPAYER'S POSITION:

The proposed revocation issue was discussed with _____, CPA and representative, for _____ during a telephone call held on May 15, 20XX.

CONCLUSION:

A. _____ is an insurance company pursuant to Subchapter L of the Code for the taxable year 20XX.

B. Although _____ is an insurance company pursuant to Subchapter L of the Code, it does not qualify as a tax-exempt small insurance company because its gross receipts do not consists of adequate "premiums" to meet the \$600,000/50% gross receipts test, as described in the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004, required of entities to qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(15) of the Internal Revenue Code.

C. Therefore, revocation of _____ tax-exempt under IRC 501(c)(15) is proposed, effective January 1, 20XX.

D. _____ is required to file an income tax return for calendar year ended December 31, 20XX.